

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7466

INFO USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2412

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: MPOL, XA, CU, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 134913

1. SUDAN VIEWS SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA AS DIVISIVE, HARMFUL AND THREATENING TO NIMEIRI REGIME. PRESIDENT HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OUTSPOKEN ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA TO EXTENT THAT OMISSION OF USUAL ANTI-SOVIET WARNINGS IN MAY 25 REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH WAS NEWSWORTHY (KHARTOUM 2360). A FEW DAYS EARLIER HE TOLD DAS HARROP THAT HE DEPLORED SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION AND "DIDN'T LIKE CUBANS". HE OFTEN HAS URGED OTHER AFRICA NATIONS TO BEWARE OF ANY COMMITMENTS TO OR TIES WITH SOVIETS. FONMIN HAS ASKED FOR MORE USG SUPPORT FOR ANTI-SOVIET AFRICA/ARAB STATES (KHARTOUM 2298).

2. AT LAST OAU SUMMIT, NIMEIRI WARNED ALL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE OF SOVIET DESIGNS ON AFRICA. AS NEXT PRESIDENT OF OAU HE WILL PURSUE ACTIONS DESIGNED TO REDUCE SOVIET PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN AFRICA BUT BECAUSE OF OAU PRESIDENCY PUBLIC CRITICISM OF SOVIETS PROBABLY WILL BE MUTED.

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3. NIMEIRI'S UNEQUIVOCAL ANTI-SOVIETISM HAS BEEN WELL DOCUMENTED BY PREVIOUS REPORTING. SEE KHARTOUM 2281, KHARTOUM 2298 AND KHARTOUM 1558 FOR RELEVANT FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS INCLUDING DENUNCIATIONS OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN HORN WHICH GOS CLAIMED WERE ALSO DENOUNCED BY OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT OUSTER OF SOVIETS FROM AFRICA IS PRINCIPAL SUDANGOV OBJECTIVE WHICH WILL BE

PURSUED EVEN IF IT IS CONSIDERED A POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE
AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
BERGUS

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